(a) Wether it is a fact that Supreme Court has asked the Government to set up a Committee to monitor the disputes between the public sector Undertakings and their administrative ministries and for disputes between various Public Sector Undertakings themselves; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY(SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action for constituting the Committee is being taken.

Investment by N.R.Is

151. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently allowed NRIs to invest 100 per cent equity in new undertakings in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether NRIs will be allowed to own 100 per cent equity in old units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c) Government of India in Ministry of Finance have decided to permit Non-resident and Overseas Corporate Bodies predominantly owned by them to invest upto 100% of the equity in high priority industries and other industries subject to the conditions laid down vide Press Note dated 28th October, 1991.

Commission for fixing the prices of Consumer Items

152. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any check on the relationship between the cost of production of consumer items and the rates at which they are sold to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to appoint a permanent commission for fixing the prices of industrial and consumer products on the lines of the Agricultural Prices Commission so as to have a meaningful check on the price realised by the manufacturers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The production of majority of consumer items is in the small scale and informal sectors. The prices of these commodities are fixed on the basis of their demand and supply based on the input cost of these items. These are supplied to the consumers in the open competitive market.

(c) to (e) The prices and the supply of the consumer items are kept under constant watch by the Government and appropriate measures taken as and when the prices show abnormal rise or the supply of these commodities fall short of their demand in the market. Government takes appropriate measures to augment supply of these commodities and also to keep their prices at a reasonable level. In view of this, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government at present for appointing a permanent commission for fixing the prices of the industrial and consumer products.